

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 28, 2011 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Down Robert (Reg. No. 48222) on October 26, 2011.

Acknowledgments

3. In view of Examiner's amendment claims 1-18, 20-35 and 45 remain pending and have been allowed subject to the examiner's amendment.

4. The Application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A content use control device for performing use control of a content provided from a providing source of various contents to a user, comprising:

a processor;

a memory storing executable instructions that when executed by the processor causes the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving, by an input-output interface for connecting to providing source of a plurality of partial contents, ~~inputting~~ said plurality of partial contents, each partial content including a unique use condition field storing a use condition as license information; and

generating, a license by ~~license-generation unit for obtaining~~ extracting the license information from the unique use condition field of the partial contents, integrating said plurality of partial contents without said license information into a collective content, assigning respective said license information to said plurality of partial contents that make up said collective content and generating single license information by collecting the assigned respective license information.

2. (Previously presented) The content use control device of claim 1, wherein the license generation unit assigns respective license information to a plurality of first collective contents that are made up of a plurality of partial contents and that make up a second collective content and generates single license information by collecting the assigned respective license information.

3. (Previously presented) The content use control device of claim 1, wherein the license generation unit imparts a unique content id to each of partial contents contained in the collective content and imparts a unique license id to license information corresponding to each of the partial contents contained in the collective content.

4. (Original) The content use control device of claim 3, wherein the content id and the license id are associated with each other.

5. (Previously presented) The content use control device of claim 1, wherein the input-output interface enables connection to one or more of providing sources including a recording medium having the partial contents recorded thereon, a network having a server device capable of providing the partial contents, and a digital broadcasting network capable of distributing the partial contents.

6. (Previously presented) The content use control device of claim 1, comprising:
external or internal recording unit; and output control unit for outputting both or either of license information generated by the license generation unit and the collective content associated therewith to a recording medium via the recording unit or the input-output interface.

7. (Previously presented) The content use control device of claim 6, wherein the output

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control unit outputs license information generated by the license generation unit and the collective content associated therewith to different recording regions of the recording medium via the recording unit or the input-output interface.

8. (Previously presented) The content use control device of claim 6, comprising:
content reproduction unit for decoding and reproducing partial contents contained in the collective content recorded on the recording medium or the recording unit; and
use control unit for controlling use of the reproduced partial contents in accordance with a use condition contained in the license information associated therewith.

9. (Previously Presented) The content use control device of claim 1, wherein the collective content consists of video data and/or audio data, and wherein the partial contents making up the collective content are segments of the video data and/or the audio data segmented based on time.

10. (Previously presented) The content use control device of claim 1, wherein the collective content is obtained by multiplexing partial contents each composed of one or more of the video data, audio data, and data broadcasting data.

11. (Original) The content use control device of claim 9 or 10, wherein the partial content is an mpeg-2 es (elementary stream).

12. (Original) The content use control device of claim 9 or 10, wherein the partial content is a stream of one or more of bs broadcasting, cs broadcasting, and terrestrial digital broadcasting.

13. (Original) The content use control device of claim 12, wherein the partial contents are es group which belong to a single component group.

14. (Previously presented) The content use control device of claim 1, wherein the use conditions contained in the license information consist of one or more of copy restriction information for restricting copy of the partial content, age viewing-and-listening restriction information for restricting the viewing-and-listening of the partial content by the age, use count restriction information for restricting the use count of the partial content, and time limit for use information for restricting the time limit for use of the partial content.

15. (Previously presented) The content use control device of claim 1, wherein the collective content is obtained by combining the partial contents each composed of image data and/or document data.

16. (Original) The content use control device of claim 1 or 15, wherein the use conditions contained in the license information consist of one or more of copy restriction

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information for restricting copy of the partial content, print restriction information for restricting print of the partial content, time limit for use information for restricting the time limit for use of the partial content, resolution restriction information for restricting the resolution conversion of the partial content, and the number-of-colors restriction information for restricting the number of colors of the partial content.

17. (Currently Amended) A recording device for generating a recording medium that enables use control of a content provided from a providing source of various contents to a user, comprising:

a processor;

a memory storing executable instructions that when executed by the processor causes the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving, by an input-output interface for connecting to providing source of a plurality of partial contents, ~~inputting~~ said plurality of partial contents, each partial content including a unique use condition field storing a use condition as license information;

generating, a license by ~~license-generation unit for obtaining~~ extracting said license information from said partial contents, integrating said plurality of partial contents into a collective content without said license information, assigning respective license information to said plurality of partial contents that make up said collective content and generating single license information by collecting the assigned respective assigned license information; and

output control unit for outputting both separately or either of license information generated by the license generation unit and the collective content associated therewith to a recording medium via the input-output interface.

18. (Original) A recording medium having both or either of the license information and the collective content associated therewith recorded thereon by the recording device of claim 17.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A content use control method for controlling use of a content using a content use control device configured to perform use control of the content provided from a providing source of various contents to a user, the method comprising:

an input step of inputting via an input-output interface a plurality of partial contents, each partial content including a unique use condition field storing a unique use condition as license information; and

a license generation step performed by a processor wherein said license generation comprises:

generating a license by ~~of obtaining~~ extracting said license information from each partial content, integrating said plurality of partial contents into a collective content without said license information, assigning respective license information to said

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plurality of the input partial contents that make up said collective content and generating single license information by collecting the assigned respective license information.

21. (Original) The content use control method of claim 20, wherein the license generation step includes assigning respective license information to a plurality of first collective contents that are made up of a plurality of partial contents and that make up a second collective content and generating single license information by collecting the assigned respective license information.

22. (Previously presented) The content use control method of claim 20, wherein the license generation step includes imparting a unique content id to each of partial contents contained in the collective content and imparting a unique license id to license information corresponding to each of the partial contents contained in the collective content.

23. (Original) The content use control method of claim 22, wherein the content id and the license id are associated with each other.

24. (Previously presented) The content use control method of claim 20, wherein the input-output interface enables connection to one or more of providing sources including a recording medium having the partial contents recorded thereon, a network having a

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server device capable of providing the partial contents, and a digital broadcasting network capable of distributing the partial contents.

25. (Previously presented) The content use control method of claim 20, comprising: an output control step of outputting both or either of license information generated at the license generation step and the collective content associated therewith to a recording medium via recording unit externally disposed on or housed in the content use control device or via the input- output interface.

26. (Previously presented) The content use control method of claim 25, wherein the output control step includes outputting license information generated at the license generation step and the collective content associated therewith to different recording regions of the recording medium via the recording unit or the input-output interface.

27. (Previously presented) The content use control method of claim 25, comprising: a content reproduction step of decoding and reproducing partial contents contained in the collective content recorded on the recording medium or the recording unit; and a use control step of controlling use of the reproduced partial content in accordance with a use condition contained in the license information associated therewith.

28. (Previously Presented) The content use control method of claim 20, wherein the collective content consists of video data and/or audio data, and wherein the partial

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contents making up the collective content are segments of the video data and/or the audio data segmented based on time.

29. (Previously presented) The content use control method of claim 20, wherein the collective content is obtained by multiplexing partial contents each composed of one or more of the video data, audio data, and data broadcasting data.

30. (Original) The content use control method of claim 28 or 29, wherein the partial content is an mpeg-2 es (elementary stream).

31. (Original) The content use control method of claim 28 or 29, wherein the partial content is a stream of one or more of bs broadcasting, cs broadcasting, and terrestrial digital broadcasting.

32. (Original) The content use control method of claim 31, wherein the partial contents are es group which belong to a single component group.

33. (Previously presented) The content use control method of claim 20, wherein the use conditions contained in the license information consist of one or more of copy restriction information for restricting copy of the partial content, age viewing-and-listening restriction information for restricting the viewing-and-listening of the partial content by the age, use count restriction information for restricting the use count of the partial

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content, and time limit for use information for restricting the time limit for use of the partial content.

34. (Previously presented) The content use control method of claim 20, wherein the collective content is obtained by combining the partial contents each composed of image data and/or document data.

35. (Original) The content use control method of claim 20 or 34, wherein the use conditions contained in the license information consist of one or more of copy restriction information for restricting copy of the partial content, print restriction information for restricting print of the partial content, time limit for use information for restricting the time limit for use of the partial content, resolution restriction information for restricting the resolution conversion of the partial content, and the number-of-colors restriction information for restricting the number of colors of the partial content.

36. Claims 36-44 (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The content use control device of claim 1, wherein license information included in respective partial content, that is provided by a providing source, is assigned to a changed version of the respective partial content in the collective content.

5. Claims 1-18, 20-35 and 45 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0080746 A1 to Zhu et al (hereinafter "Zhu").

7. Regarding the claimed terms, the Examiner notes that a "general term must be understood in the context in which the inventor presents it." In re Glaug F.3d 1335, 1340, 62 USPQ2d 1151, 1154 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Therefore the Examiner must interpret the claimed terms as found on pages 1-82 of the specification. Clearly almost all the general terms in the claims may have multiple meanings. So where a claim term "is susceptible to various meanings, ...the inventor's lexicography must prevail...." Id. Using these definitions for the claims, the claimed invention was not reasonably found in the prior art.

8. The primary reference Zhu (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0080746 A1) teaches a public licensing infrastructure (PLI) for a digital management (DRM) system. The method includes generating a formal license for content. The formal license includes a decryption key for decrypting the content and access rules for accessing the content. A plurality of license authorities is configured to provide a plurality of partial licenses. The plurality of partial licenses are combinable to form the formal license

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Zhu however does not at least teach or suggest receiving, by an input-output interface for connecting to providing source of a plurality of partial contents, said plurality of partial contents, each partial content including a unique use condition field storing a use condition as license information; and generating, a license by extracting the license information from the unique use condition field of the partial contents, integrating said plurality of partial contents without said license information into a collective content, assigning respective said license information to said plurality of partial contents that make up said collective content and generating single license information by collecting the assigned respective license information.

Moreover, the missing claimed elements from Zhu are not found in a reasonable number of reference(s). Yet even if the missing claimed elements were found in a reasonable number of references, a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to include these missing elements in an embodiment in the Zhu disclosure because: such would have changed the basic working principles and the operation of Zhu which is silent with respect to receiving, by an input-output interface for connecting to providing source of a plurality of partial contents, said plurality of partial contents, each partial content including a unique use condition field storing a use condition as license information; and generating, a license by extracting the license information from the unique use condition field of the partial contents, integrating said plurality of partial contents without said license information into a collective content, assigning respective said license information to said plurality of

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partial contents that make up said collective content and generating single license information by collecting the assigned respective license information

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

9. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants disclosure.

- Alkove et al, (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0143760 A1) which discloses Systems and Methods for Licensing one or more data streams from an encoded digital media file.
- Son et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0218611 A1) which discloses Systems and Apparatus for preprocessing and postprocessing content in an interactive information distribution system.
- Matsuyama et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0056747 A1) which discloses Person Authentication System, Person Authentication method, Information processing Apparatus and Program providing medium.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles C. Agwumezie whose number is **(571) 272-6838**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Calvin Hewit** can be reached on **(571) 272 – 6709**.

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/Charlie C Agwumezie/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3685
October 27, 2011